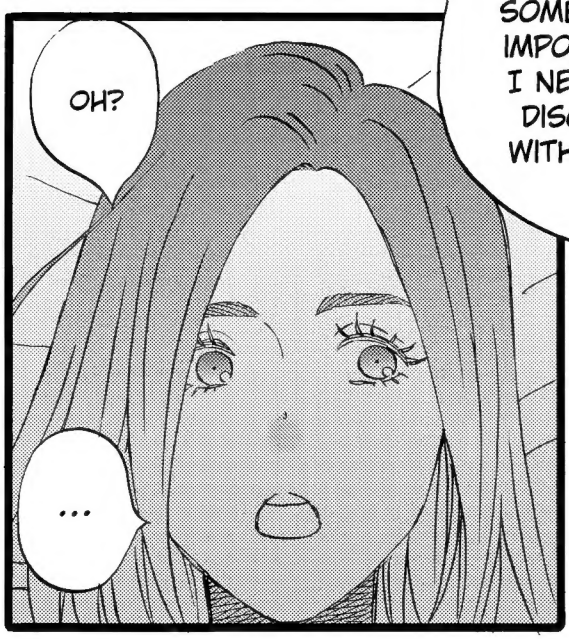
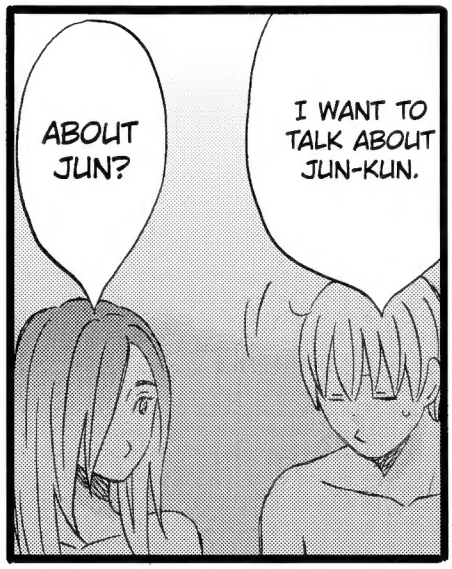
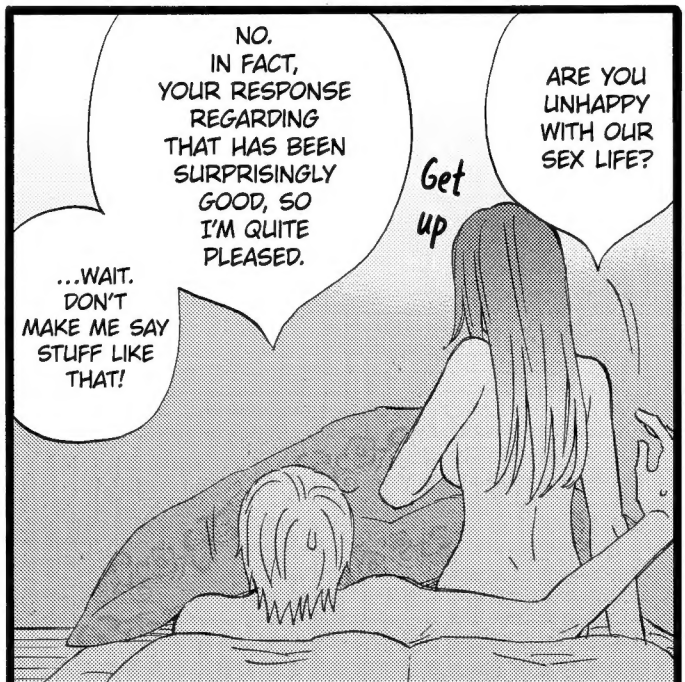
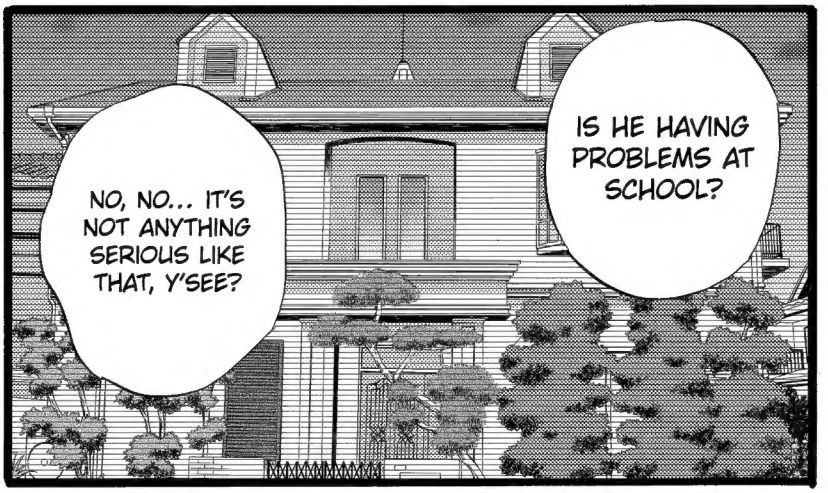

OH?
...

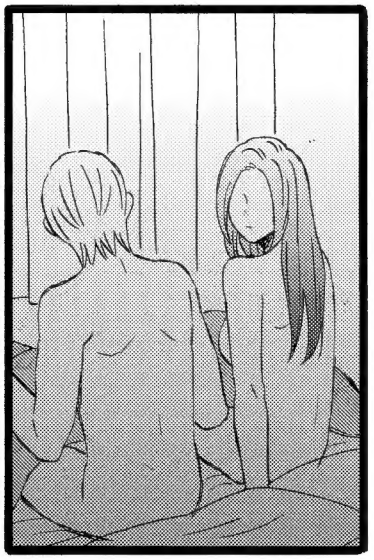
THERE'S SOMETHING IMPORTANT I NEED TO DISCUSS WITH YOU.


ABOUT JUN?
I WANT TO TALK ABOUT JUN-KUN.


ARE YOU UNHAPPY WITH OUR SEX LIFE?
Get up
NO. IN FACT, YOUR RESPONSE REGARDING THAT HAS BEEN SURPRISINGLY GOOD, SO I'M QUITE PLEASED.
...WAIT. DON'T MAKE ME SAY STUFF LIKE THAT!

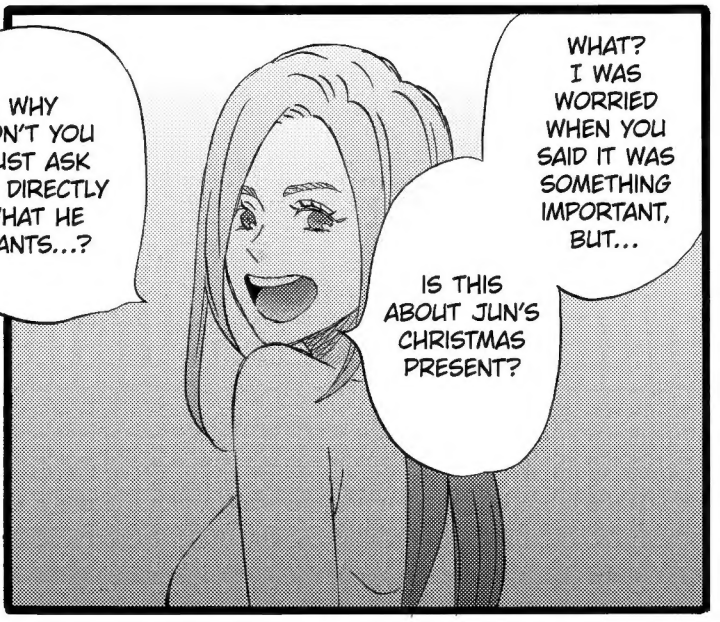
WHAT I WANT TO DISCUSS IS...

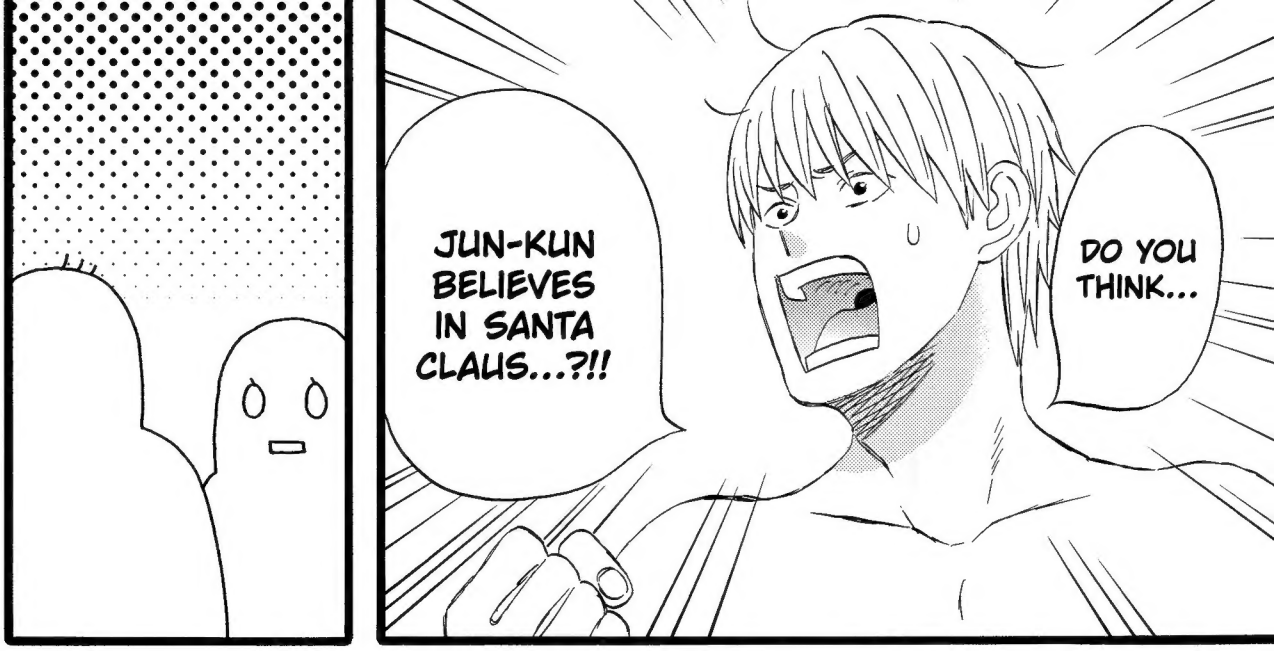

IS HE HAVING PROBLEMS AT SCHOOL?
NO, NO... IT'S NOT ANYTHING SERIOUS LIKE THAT, Y'SEE?

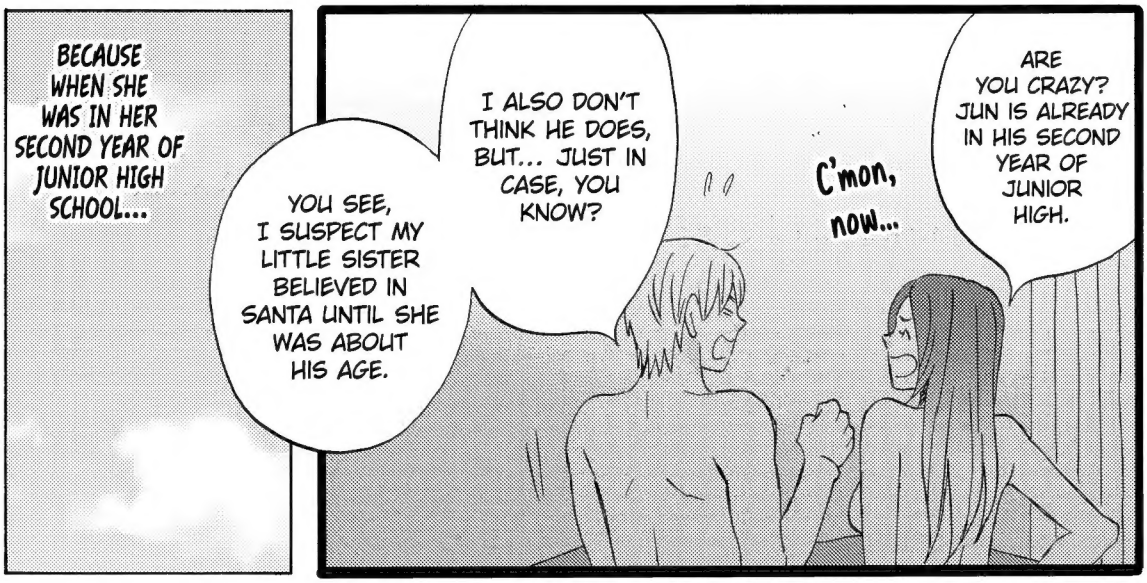


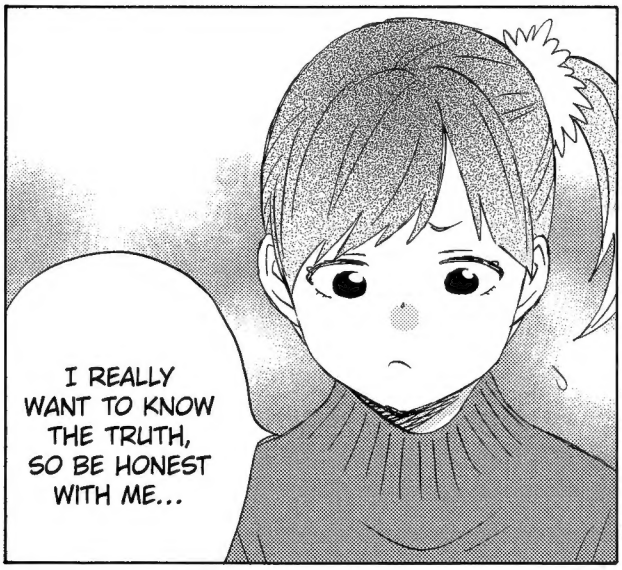
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT JUN-KUN'S CHRISTMAS?!

NO, NO... A CHRISTMAS PRESENT IS A CHRISTMAS PRESENT. WE HAVE TO THINK OF SOMETHING BY OURSELVES.
WHAT I WANT TO ASK YOU IS...

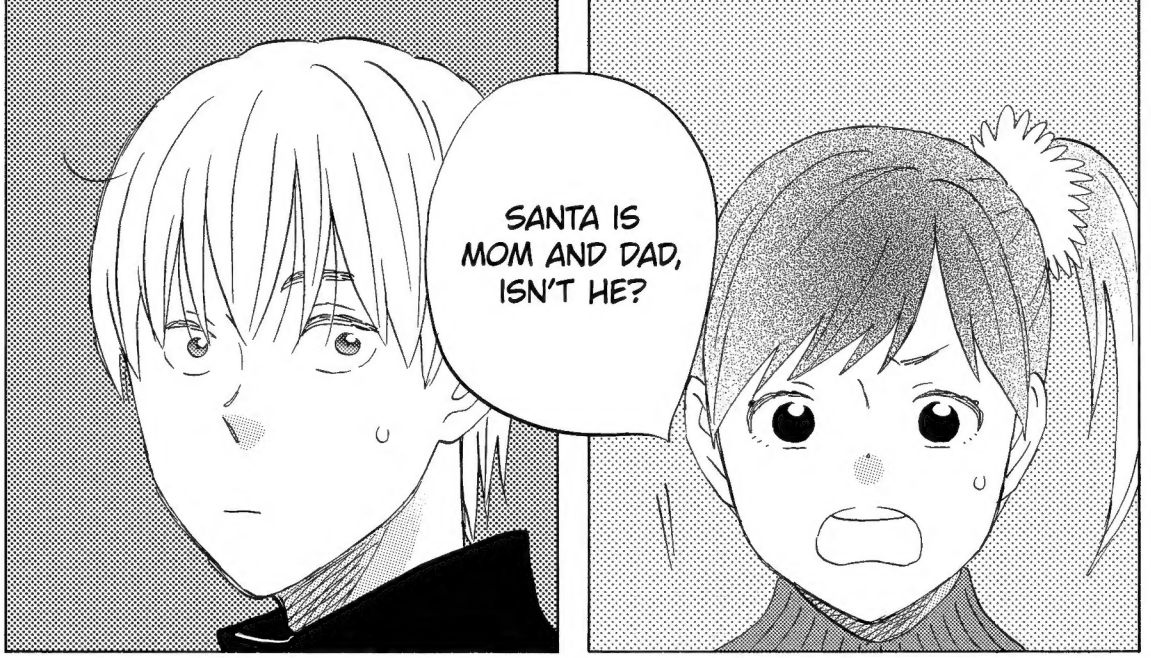

WHY DON'T YOU JUST ASK HIM DIRECTLY WHAT HE WANTS...?
WHAT? I WAS WORRIED WHEN YOU SAID IT WAS SOMETHING IMPORTANT, BUT...
IS THIS ABOUT JUN'S CHRISTMAS PRESENT?


JUN-KUN BELIEVES IN SANTA CLAUS...?!!
DO YOU THINK...

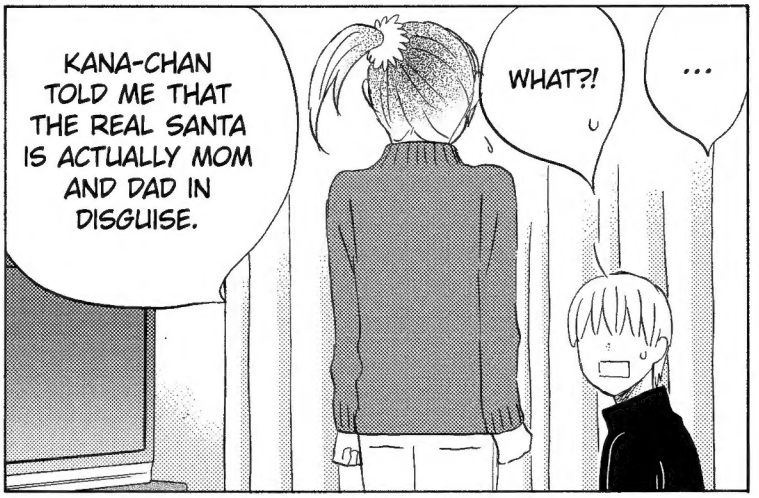

BECAUSE WHEN SHE WAS IN HER SECOND YEAR OF JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL...
YOU SEE, I SUSPECT MY LITTLE SISTER BELIEVED IN SANTA UNTIL SHE WAS ABOUT HIS AGE.
I ALSO DON'T THINK HE DOES, BUT... JUST IN CASE, YOU KNOW?
C'mon, now...
ARE YOU CRAZY? JUN IS ALREADY IN HIS SECOND YEAR OF JUNIOR HIGH.

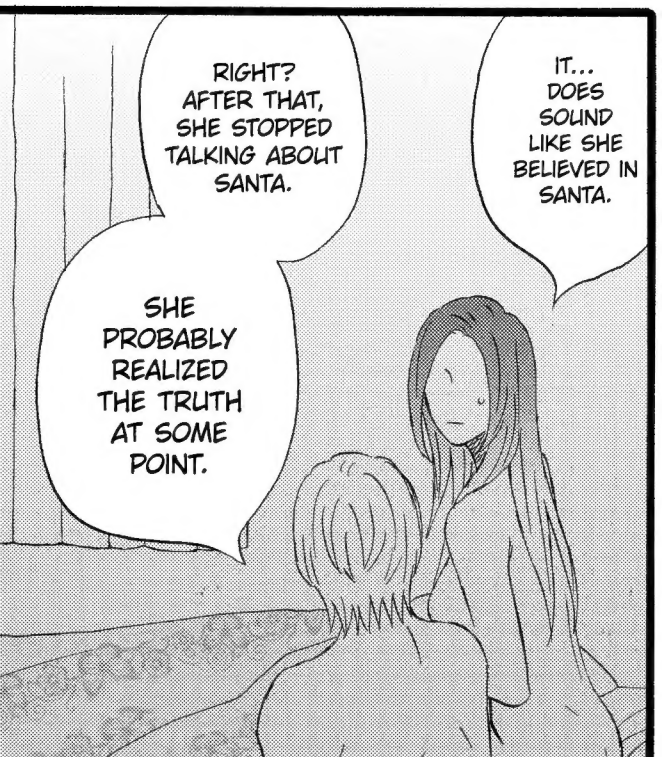

I REALLY WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH, SO BE HONEST WITH ME...

HUH? WHAT'S UP?
GOT A MINUTE, BIG BRO?

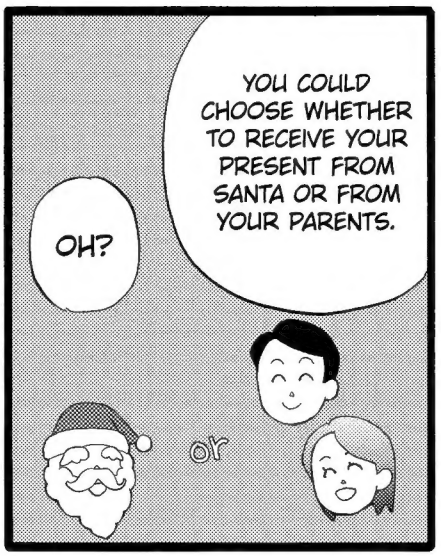

SANTA IS MOM AND DAD, ISN'T HE?

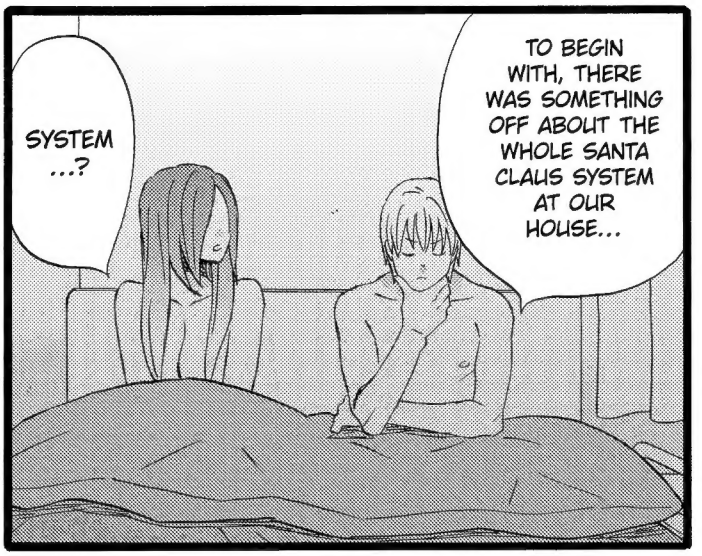
HEY, BIG BRO...

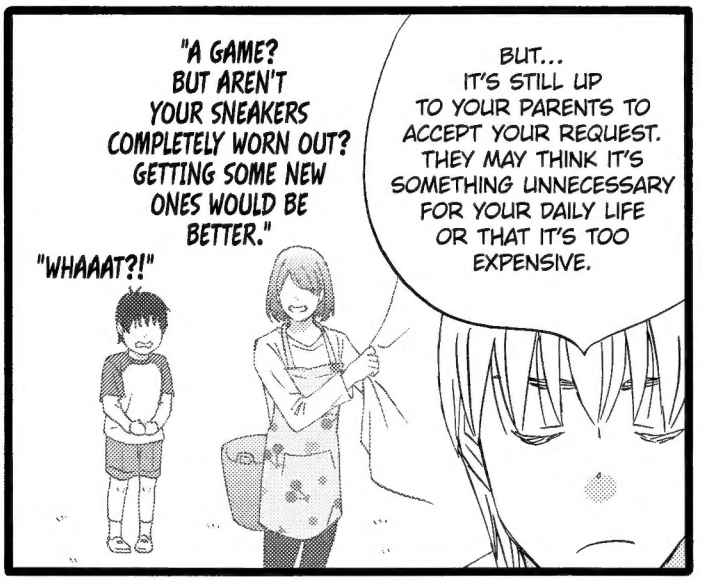

KANA-CHAN TOLD ME THAT THE REAL SANTA IS ACTUALLY MOM AND DAD IN DISGUISE.
WHAT?!
...

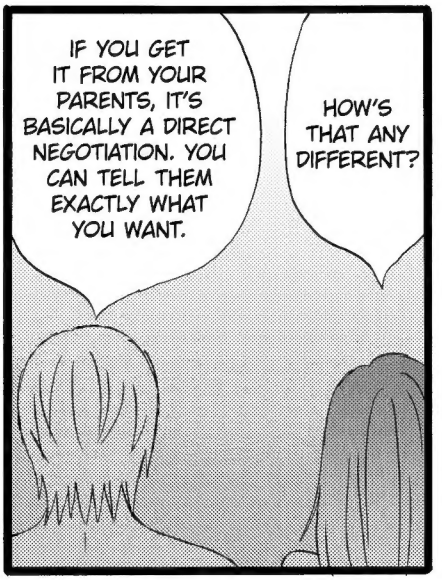

IT... DOES SOUND LIKE SHE BELIEVED IN SANTA.
RIGHT? AFTER THAT, SHE STOPPED TALKING ABOUT SANTA.
SHE PROBABLY REALIZED THE TRUTH AT SOME POINT.

TELL ME THE TRUTH, OKAY?
...
Rumble
Rumble
Rumble

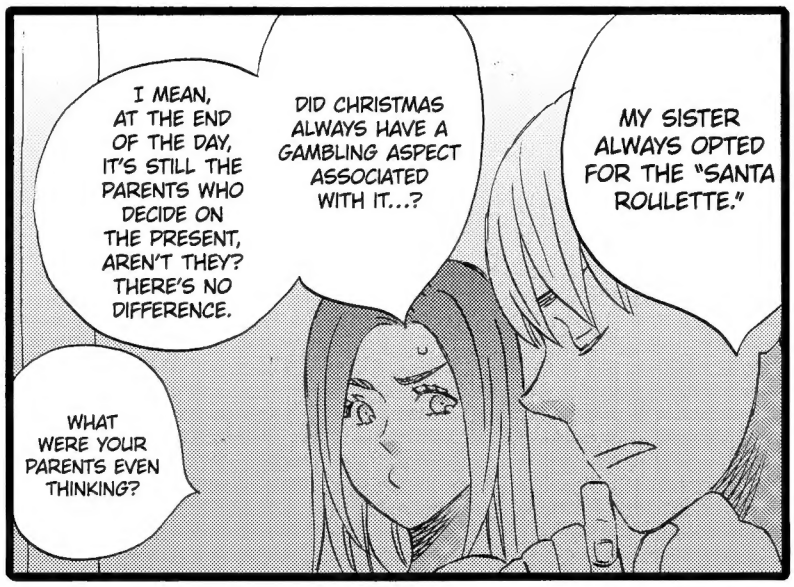

YOU COULD CHOOSE WHETHER TO RECEIVE YOUR PRESENT FROM SANTA OR FROM YOUR PARENTS.
OH?
or


TO BEGIN WITH, THERE WAS SOMETHING OFF ABOUT THE WHOLE SANTA CLAUS SYSTEM AT OUR HOUSE...
SYSTEM ...?

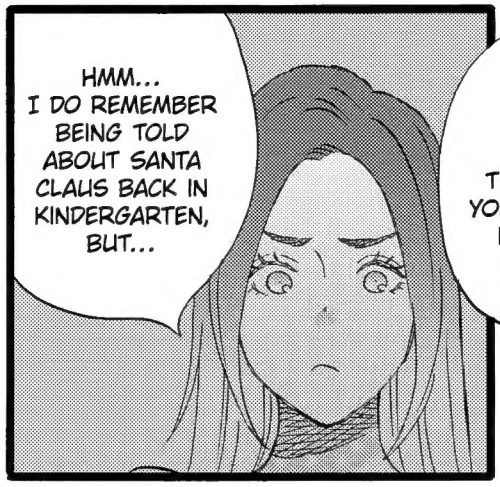

BUT... IT'S STILL UP TO YOUR PARENTS TO ACCEPT YOUR REQUEST. THEY MAY THINK IT'S SOMETHING UNNECESSARY FOR YOUR DAILY LIFE OR THAT IT'S TOO EXPENSIVE.
"A GAME? BUT AREN'T YOUR SNEAKERS COMPLETELY WORN OUT? GETTING SOME NEW ONES WOULD BE BETTER."
"WHAAAT?!"

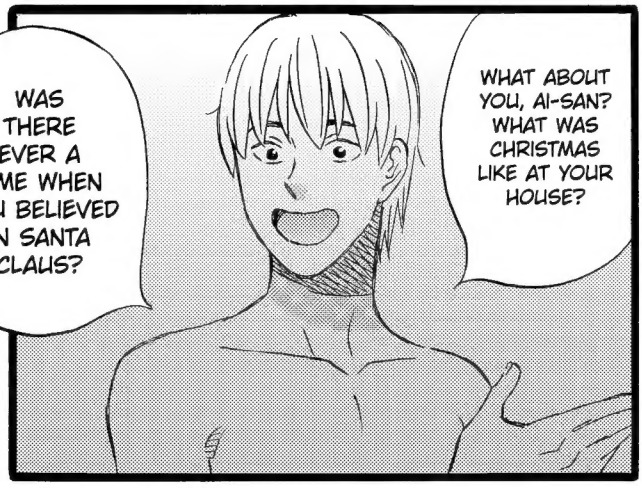

IF YOU GET IT FROM YOUR PARENTS, IT'S BASICALLY A DIRECT NEGOTIATION. YOU CAN TELL THEM EXACTLY WHAT YOU WANT.
HOW'S THAT ANY DIFFERENT?

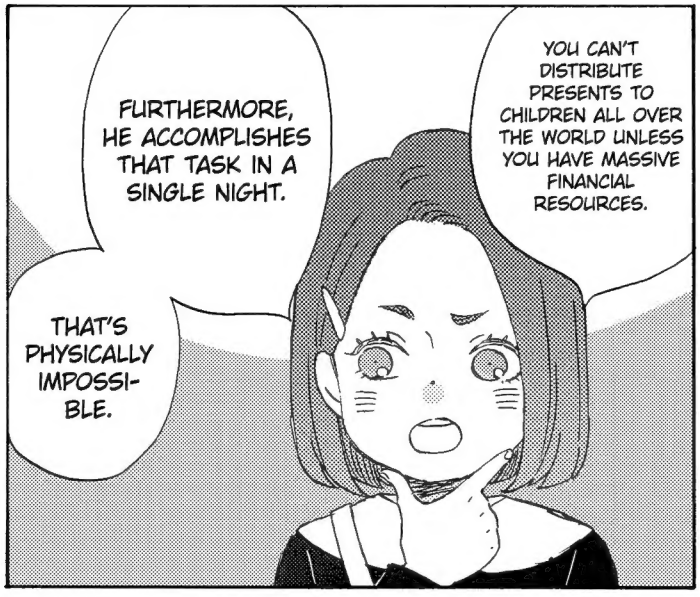
SINCE YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE GETTING, IT'S A GAMBLE WHERE ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN.
BUT...
IF YOU ASK SANTA FOR A PRESENT... YOU LOSE YOUR CHANCE TO NEGOTIATE.

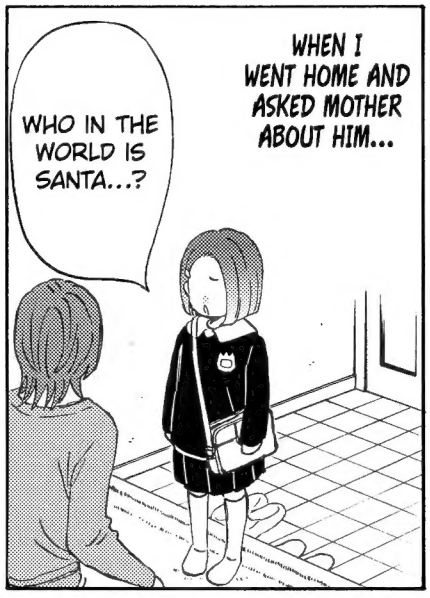

I MEAN, AT THE END OF THE DAY, IT'S STILL THE PARENTS WHO DECIDE ON THE PRESENT, AREN'T THEY? THERE'S NO DIFFERENCE.
DID CHRISTMAS ALWAYS HAVE A GAMBLING ASPECT ASSOCIATED WITH IT...?
MY SISTER ALWAYS OPTED FOR THE "SANTA ROULETTE."
WHAT WERE YOUR PARENTS EVEN THINKING?

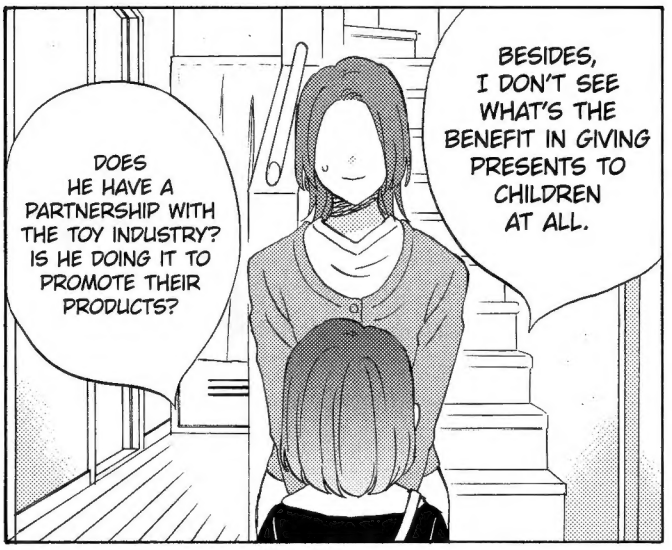
SOMETIMES YOU GET SOMETHING REALLY NICE, BUT OTHER TIMES YOU'RE LET DOWN...
Good
Bad
NOTE


HMM... I DO REMEMBER BEING TOLD ABOUT SANTA CLAUS BACK IN KINDERGARTEN, BUT...

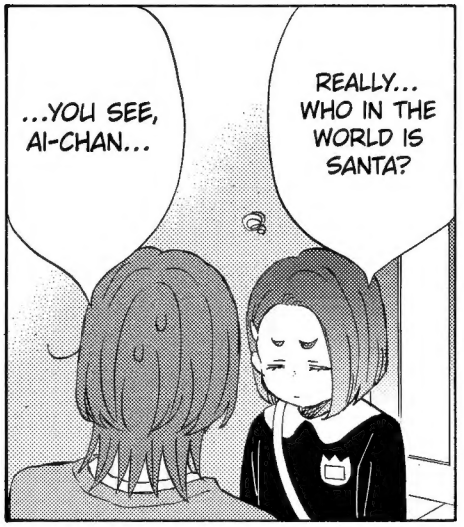

WAS THERE EVER A TIME WHEN YOU BELIEVED IN SANTA CLAUS?
WHAT ABOUT YOU, AI-SAN? WHAT WAS CHRISTMAS LIKE AT YOUR HOUSE?

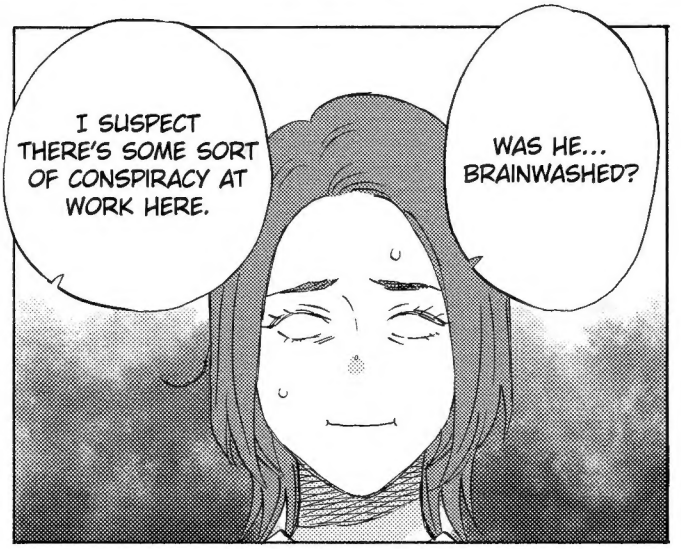

FURTHERMORE, HE ACCOMPLISHES THAT TASK IN A SINGLE NIGHT.
YOU CAN'T DISTRIBUTE PRESENTS TO CHILDREN ALL OVER THE WORLD UNLESS YOU HAVE MASSIVE FINANCIAL RESOURCES.
THAT'S PHYSICALLY IMPOSSI-BLE.

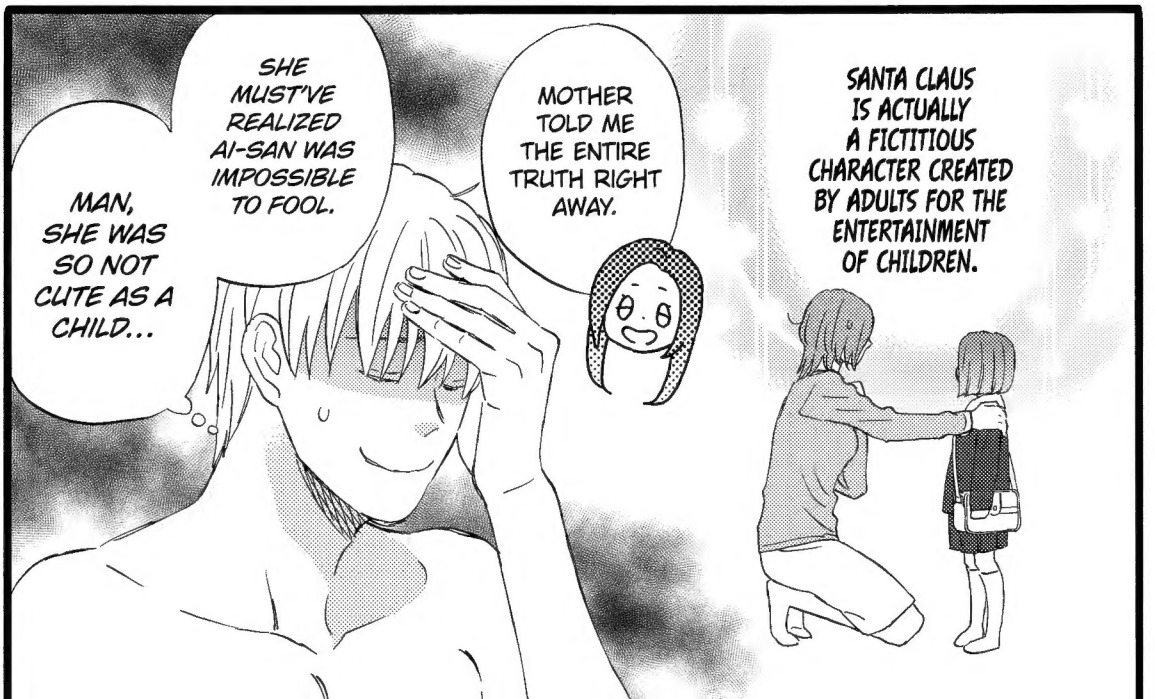

WHEN I WENT HOME AND ASKED MOTHER ABOUT HIM...
WHO IN THE WORLD IS SANTA...?

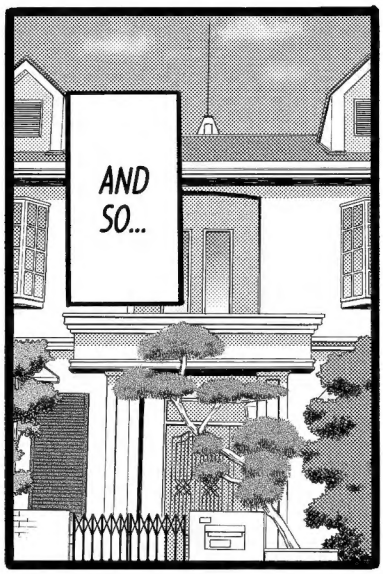

DOES HE HAVE A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE TOY INDUSTRY? IS HE DOING IT TO PROMOTE THEIR PRODUCTS?
BESIDES, I DON'T SEE WHAT'S THE BENEFIT IN GIVING PRESENTS TO CHILDREN AT ALL.

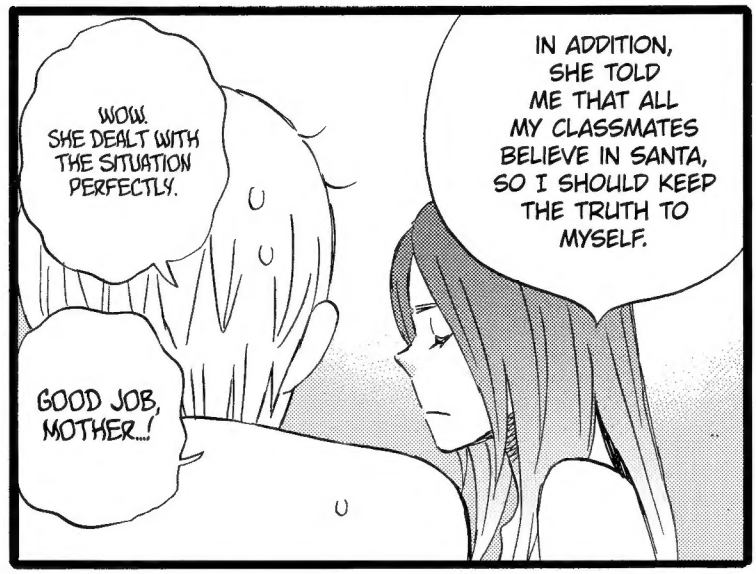
MOST LIKELY, HE DOESN'T WORK ALONE. THERE MUST BE A HUGE ORGANIZATION BEHIND HIM...

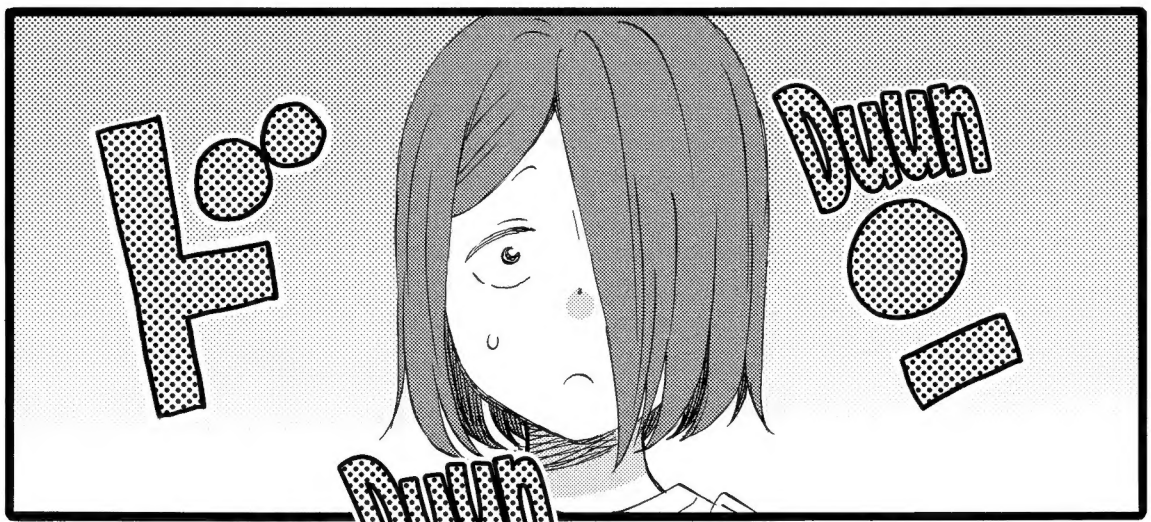

...YOU SEE, AI-CHAN...
REALLY... WHO IN THE WORLD IS SANTA?


I SUSPECT THERE'S SOME SORT OF CONSPIRACY AT WORK HERE.
WAS HE... BRAINWASHED?


MAN, SHE WAS SO NOT CUTE AS A CHILD...
SHE MUST'VE REALIZED AI-SAN WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO FOOL.
MOTHER TOLD ME THE ENTIRE TRUTH RIGHT AWAY.
SANTA CLAUS IS ACTUALLY A FICTITIOUS CHARACTER CREATED BY ADULTS FOR THE ENTERTAINMENT OF CHILDREN.


AND SO...


IN ADDITION, SHE TOLD ME THAT ALL MY CLASSMATES BELIEVE IN SANTA, SO I SHOULD KEEP THE TRUTH TO MYSELF.
WOW. SHE DEALT WITH THE SITUATION PERFECTLY.
GOOD JOB, MOTHER...!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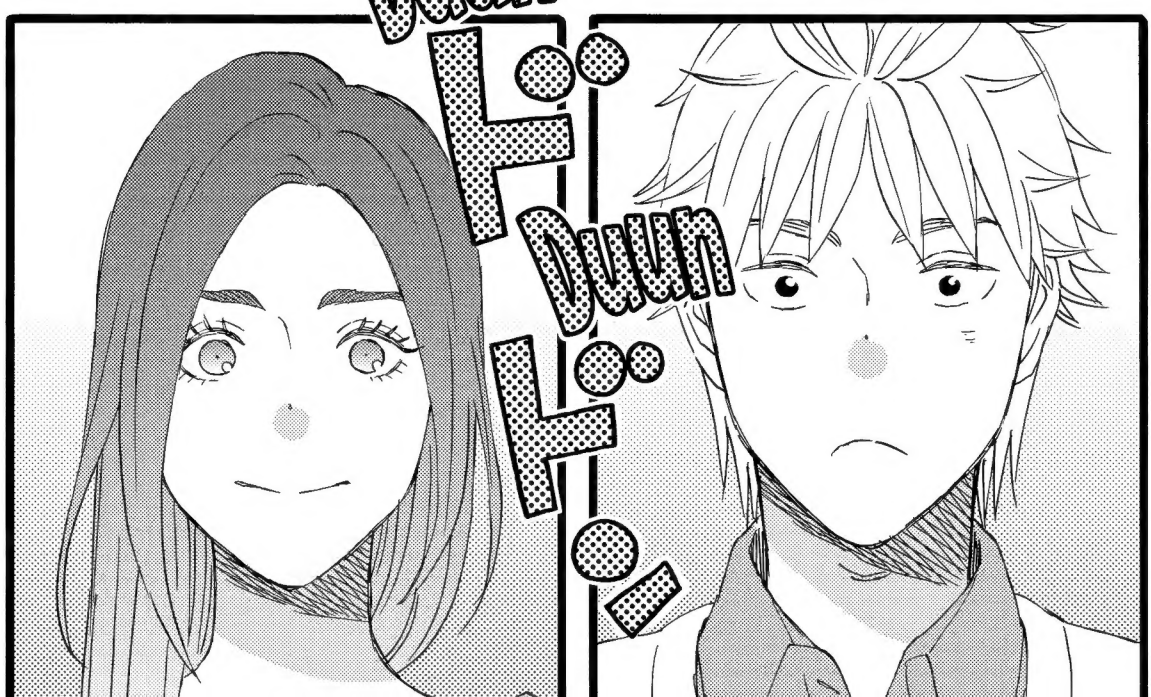
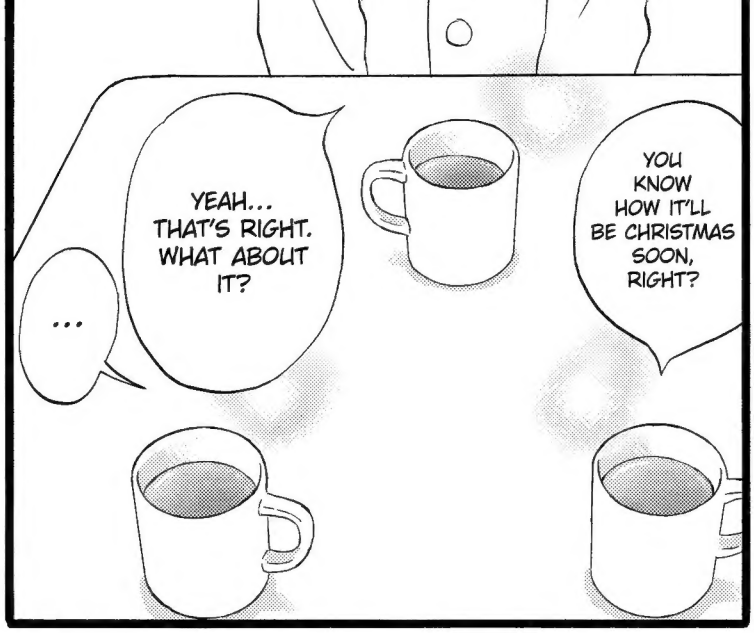
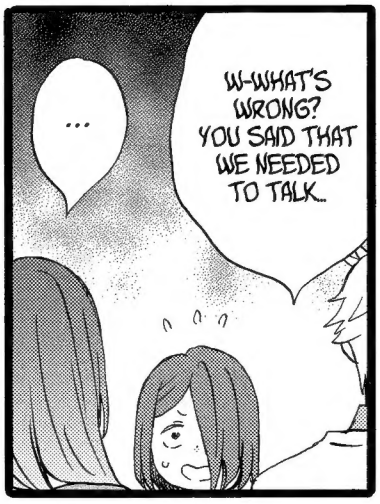
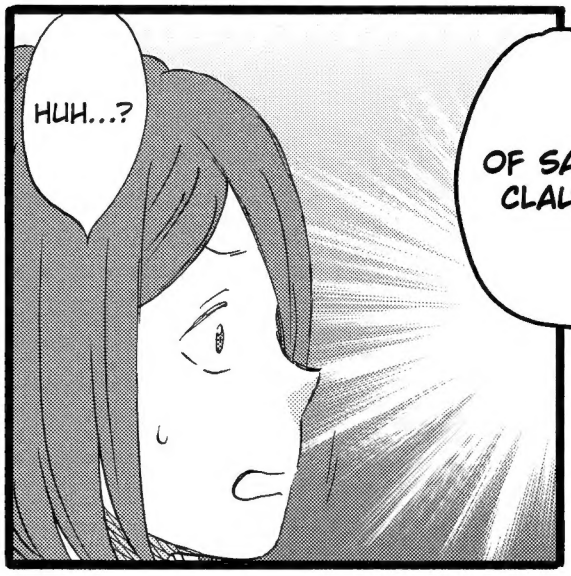
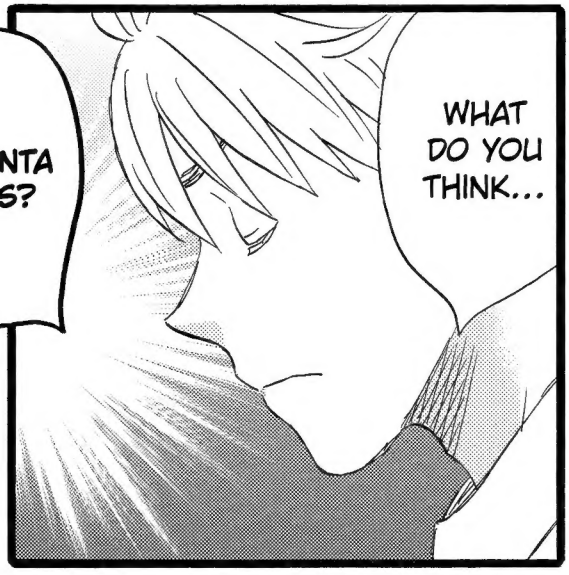



YOU KNOW HOW IT'LL BE CHRISTMAS SOON, RIGHT?
YEAH... THAT'S RIGHT. WHAT ABOUT IT?
...


W-WHAT'S WRONG? YOU SAID THAT WE NEEDED TO TALK...
...

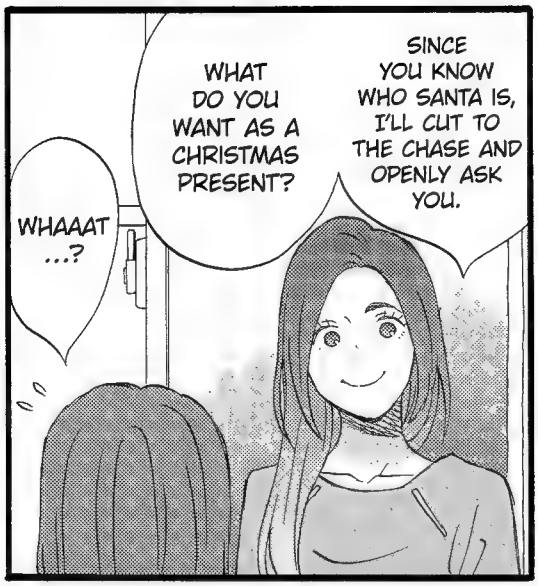

HUH...?


OF SANTA CLAUS?
WHAT DO YOU THINK...

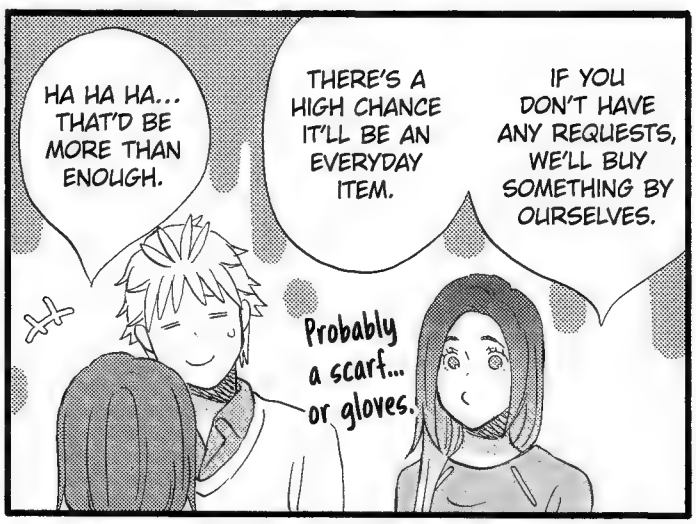
YES. THAT SANTA.

...WHO GIVES PRESENTS TO CHILDREN ALL OVER THE WORLD...?
BY SANTA CLAUS, YOU MEAN THAT SANTA, RIGHT? THE OLD MAN WITH THE BEARD...
Ho Ho Ho!
WHAT DO I THINK...?

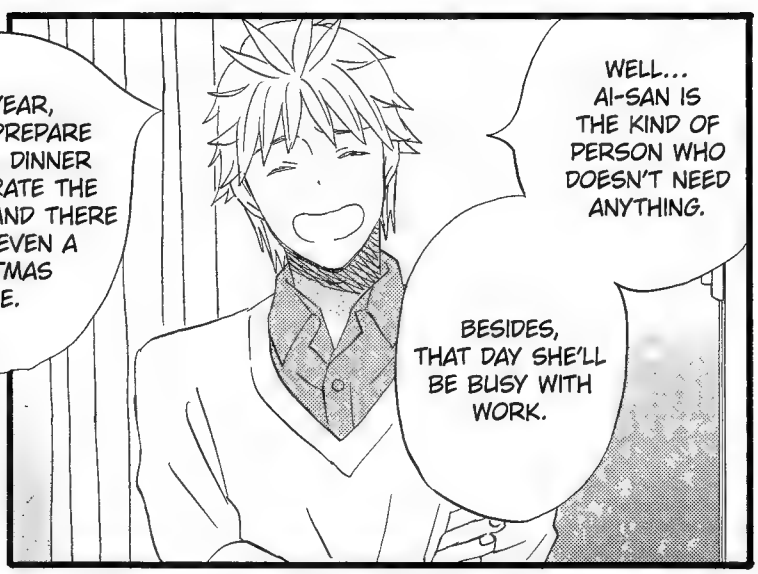
NO, NO, NO... IT'S A SPECIAL OCCASION. ISN'T THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT?
YOU'VE ALREADY GIVEN ME SO MANY THINGS. I CAN'T ASK FOR MORE..
HMM...


WHAT DO YOU WANT AS A CHRISTMAS PRESENT?
SINCE YOU KNOW WHO SANTA IS, I'LL CUT TO THE CHASE AND OPENLY ASK YOU.
WHAAAT ...?

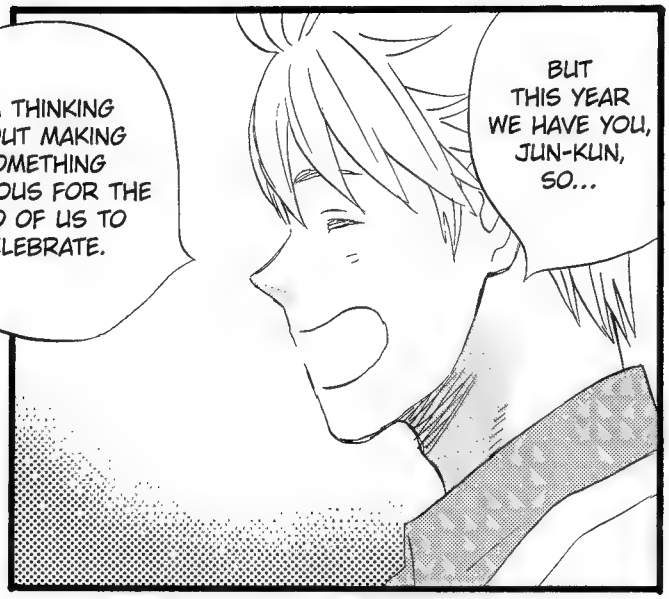
ARE YOU ALSO GIVING PRESENTS TO EACH OTHER?

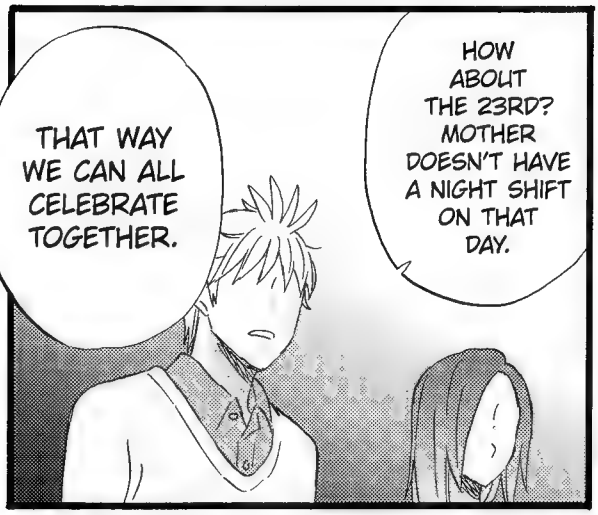

HA HA HA... THAT'D BE MORE THAN ENOUGH.
THERE'S A HIGH CHANCE IT'LL BE AN EVERYDAY ITEM.
IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY REQUESTS, WE'LL BUY SOMETHING BY OURSELVES.
Probably a scarf... or gloves.

LAST YEAR, I DIDN'T PREPARE A SPECIAL DINNER TO CELEBRATE THE OCCASION, AND THERE WASN'T EVEN A CHRISTMAS CAKE.


WELL... AI-SAN IS THE KIND OF PERSON WHO DOESN'T NEED ANYTHING.
BESIDES, THAT DAY SHE'LL BE BUSY WITH WORK.

Make sure you take pictures and show me later.
I wonder what'd be good?
...

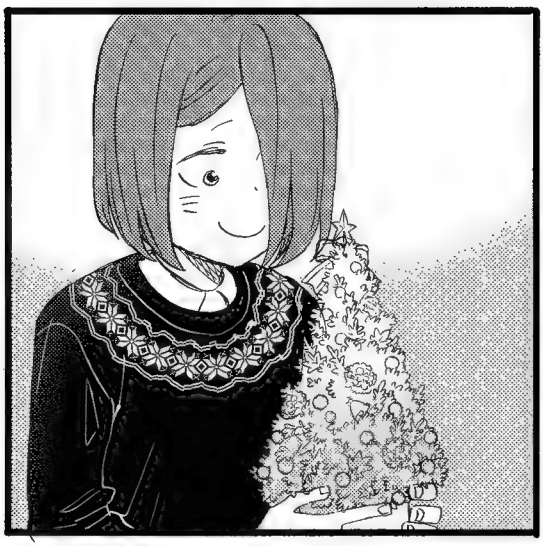

I'M THINKING ABOUT MAKING SOMETHING DELICIOUS FOR THE TWO OF US TO CELEBRATE.
BUT THIS YEAR WE HAVE YOU, JUN-KUN, SO...

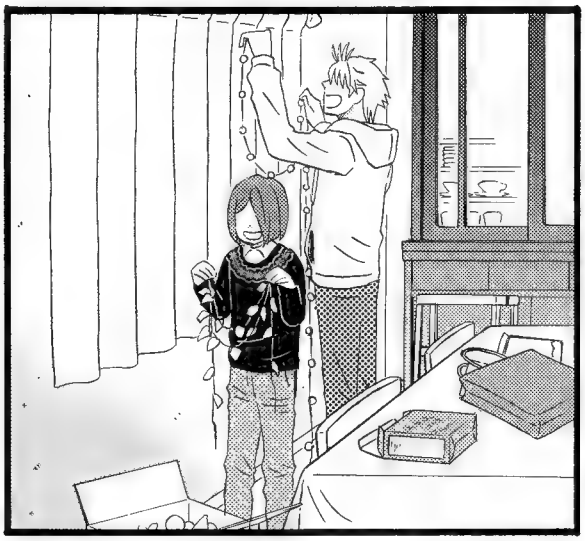

HOW ABOUT THE 23RD? MOTHER DOESN'T HAVE A NIGHT SHIFT ON THAT DAY.
THAT WAY WE CAN ALL CELEBRATE TOGETHER.

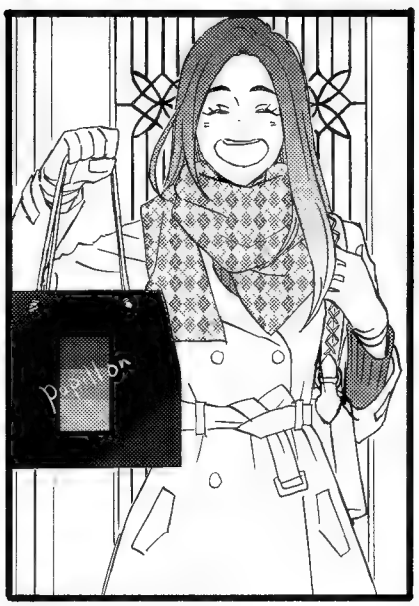
WE DON'T HAVE TO HOLD THE CHRISTMAS PARTY ON THE EXACT DATE, DO WE?

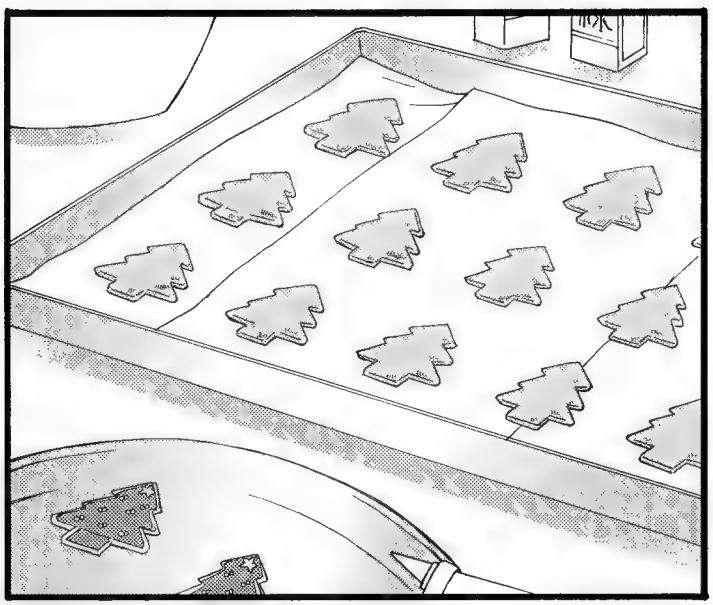
WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THAT LAST YEAR...?!
Seriously...
A-ARE YOU OKAY? MAYBE IT'S A BAD IDEA, AFTER ALL...
NO... I JUST REALIZED THAT I'M DUMBER THAN I THOUGHT.
HUH...?

ALL RIIIGHT! WE'RE HAVING A CHRISTMAS PARTY THIS YEAR!



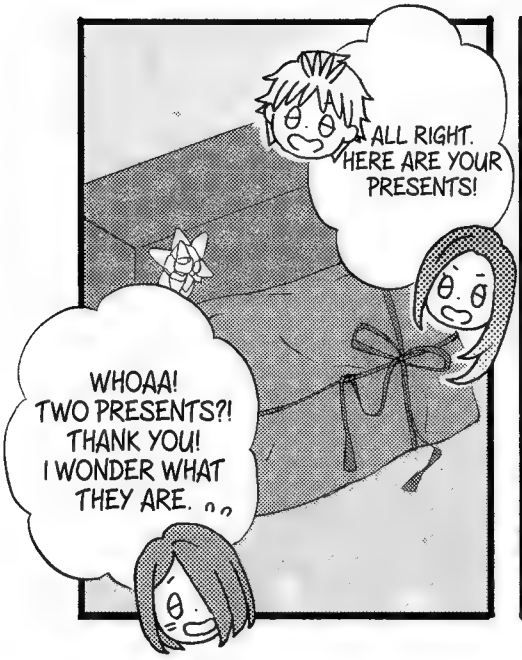



Panilba

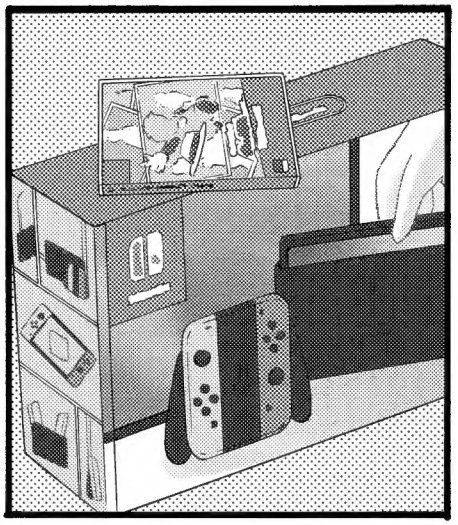


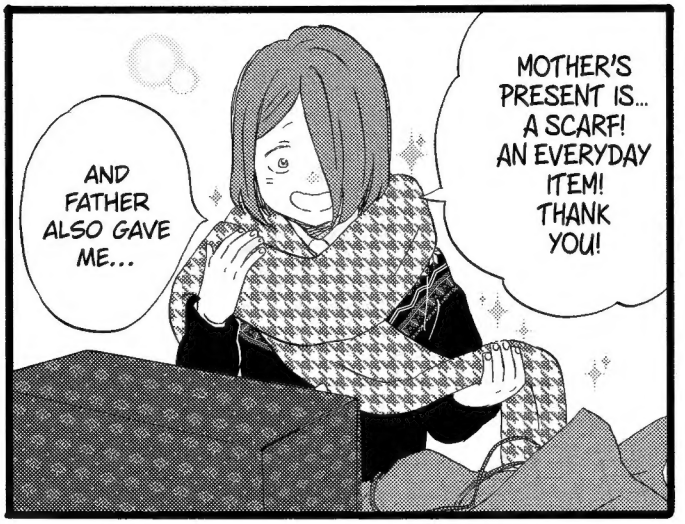
IT'S STILL A BIT EARLY, BUT...
はぴPop
Pop
MERRY CHRISTMAS!

はぴPop


ALL RIGHT. HERE ARE YOUR PRESENTS!
WHOAA! TWO PRESENTS?! THANK YOU! I WONDER WHAT THEY ARE.

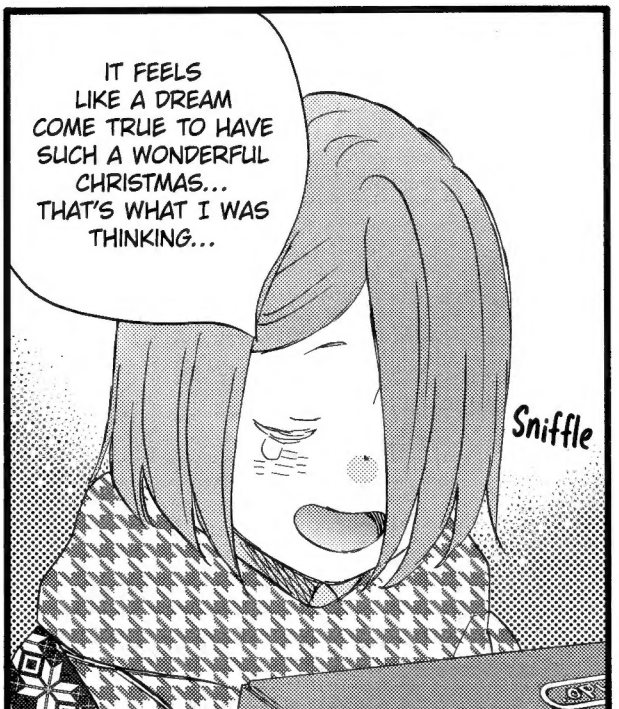
I HELPED MAKE A FEW OF THESE DISHES TOO.
I WENT ALL OUT THIS TIME.
WHAT A LUXURIOUS DINNER!
REALLY?! AMAZING, JUN.

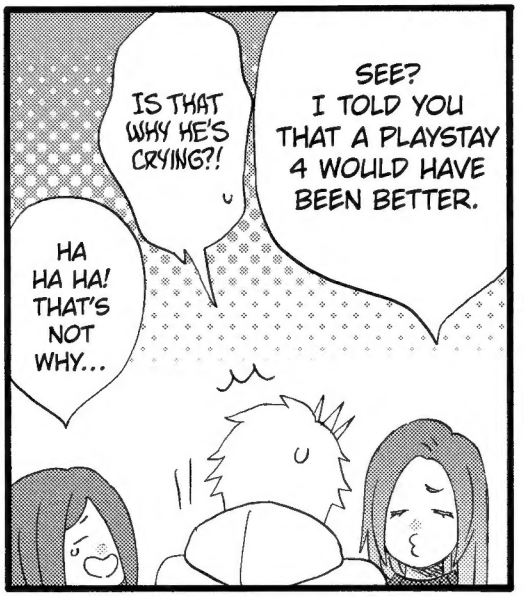



MOTHER'S PRESENT IS... A SCARF! AN EVERYDAY ITEM! THANK YOU!
AND FATHER ALSO GAVE ME...

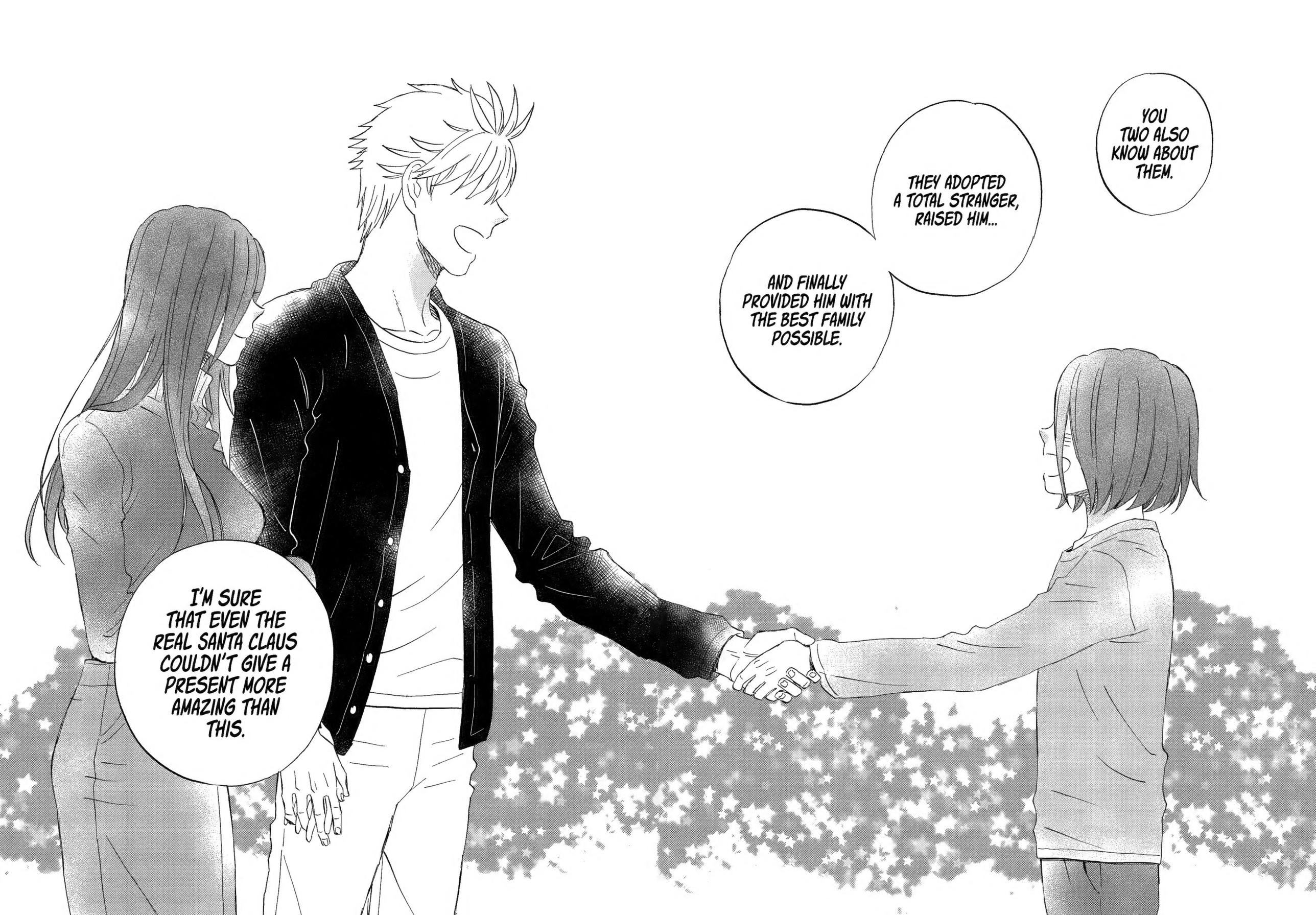
...
...HUH?! JUN-KUN? WHAT'S WRONG?
Plip

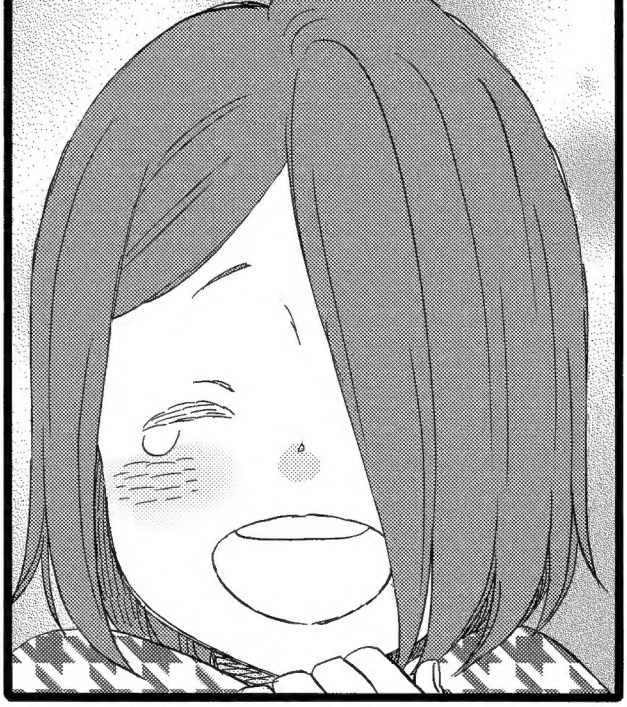
AN EVERYDAY ITEM...?
I'M SORRY! Y'SEE, YOUR FATHER ALSO KINDA WANTED TO BUY THAT!
LET'S PLAY TOGETHER, OKAY?!


IT FEELS LIKE A DREAM COME TRUE TO HAVE SUCH A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS... THAT'S WHAT I WAS THINKING...
Sniffle


SEE? I TOLD YOU THAT A PLAYSTAY 4 WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER.
IS THAT WHY HE'S CRYING?!
HA HA HA! THAT'S NOT WHY...

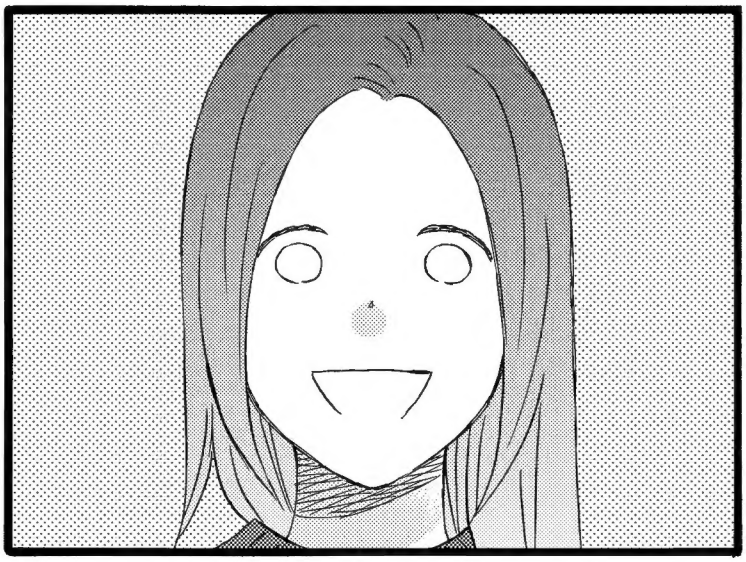
I KNOW SANTA CLAUS ISN'T REAL, BUT...
JUN-KUN...
I'M NOW AWARE THAT THERE ARE SOME AMAZING PEOPLE OUT THERE WHO GIVE BETTER PRESENTS THAN SANTA.


I'M SURE THAT EVEN THE REAL SANTA CLAUS COULDN'T GIVE A PRESENT MORE AMAZING THAN THIS.
AND FINALLY PROVIDED HIM WITH THE BEST FAMILY POSSIBLE.
THEY ADOPTED A TOTAL STRANGER, RAISED HIM...
YOU TWO ALSO KNOW ABOUT THEM.



JUN-KUN...

...What? Who are you talking about?
...



HE'S TALKING ABOUT THE TWO OF US.
SERIOUSLY?! ...I SEE. SO WE'RE MORE AMAZING THAN SANTA, HUH?
HA HA HA!
AND THAT'S HOW THE THREE SPENT THEIR FIRST CHRISTMAS TOGETHER.